



# **FIRE FIGHTER TRAINEE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE**



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This Study Guide includes a message from the Fire Chief, and information about the Fire Fighter Trainee Examination. The Guide describes the various parts of the test, offers tips on how to prepare for and take the tests, and provides example and practice questions.

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The pages in this Study Guide are numbered 1 through 25. It is your responsibility to make sure you have a complete study guide.

**DO NOT BRING THIS STUDY GUIDE TO THE WRITTEN TEST**

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## 1. Message from Los Angeles County Fire Chief and Fire Fighters

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### Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

Congratulations on your decision to apply for the Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Trainee examination! While we expect this exam to be competitive, we commend you for embarking on this exciting career opportunity. The fire service is a proud and noble profession, and Los Angeles County Fire Fighters enjoy an internationally renowned reputation for being the best. Each and every day, they play an increasingly important role in the communities in which they serve.

Please take the time to read the helpful commentary provided below by three of our current Fire Fighters, along with the exam information that follows. We hope that you will be encouraged by this advice as you begin your journey towards a rewarding career as a Fire Fighter – a career that provides excitement, fulfillment and purpose.

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### Commentary from Los Angeles County Fire Fighters

*Three members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department were asked the following questions. 1) What are the most important qualities for Los Angeles County Fire Fighters? 2) What can a candidate do to prepare for a career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department – physically, emotionally, and mentally? 3) What do you like about being a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department? 4) What do you like about the fire service? Their thoughts are shared below.*

#### **Fire Fighter Specialist Jermaine Johnson**

##### **Fire Station 95**

“First let me start by saying there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Los Angeles County Fire Department core values have been and are the most important qualities for anyone interested in a career with Los Angeles County Fire. For the Fire Fighters who are working in the field, believing in Integrity, Teamwork, Caring, Courage, Commitment, and Community is vital for providing excellent service to all citizens who live and visit LA County.

A potential candidate can prepare themselves by setting small goals each day that will help them achieve their ultimate goal of becoming a Los Angeles County Fire Fighter. For example, physically—start and stick to a consistent exercise program that will put you in the best physical condition for this line of work; mentally—read and study as much information about Los Angeles County Fire Department; visit county fire stations, talk to county Fire Fighters about what it takes mentally to do this job; emotionally—if the candidate takes care of the physical and mental aspect

of obtaining this career, and has a positive support system (family, friends), the candidate will better prepare themselves for the emotional aspect of this career.

What I like about being a Los Angeles County Fire Fighter is serving the community I was raised in and working with good people on every shift. Los Angeles County Fire Department gives its members opportunities for promotional advancement, education, and the ability to work all across Los Angeles County.

What I like about the fire service is the fact that every day is different. I like talking with my crew about my family, I like hearing about my crews' families and how we all have different backgrounds, but we come together as one every shift to provide our citizens with a positive experience every time the bell goes off."

**Fire Fighter Heather Hogelund**  
**Fire Station 149**

"To me, the most important qualities are that you need to be a strong worker and you need to be a problem solver. Being physically fit is an obvious requirement for this job, but more importantly, you need to be a hardworking, self-motivated person who loves a challenge. This job is not for people who do the bare minimum; it is for people who want to give their best every day. You must be the kind of person who does the right thing all of the time, not just when you think someone is watching. Lastly, you need to be able to work well with others. We all come from different backgrounds and with different life experiences, but we cannot forget to treat people how we want to be treated.

I think a great way to prepare physically for this job is to do high-intensity interval training. You need to know what it feels like to be totally out of breath and still have to give some more. The more you do this, the better your body will respond to being pushed.

You need to be able to accept constructive criticism, because you are going to get a lot of it. There is a wealth of knowledge to be learned from the men and women in this department, so use it to your advantage. Do not take it personal and make sure you pass it on when you are the one with the knowledge and there is a new Fire Fighter around ready to listen to you.

Know your strengths and weaknesses; share your strengths with others and always continue to improve yourself whenever you can.

I am so proud to be a member of LA County Fire Department. It is an extension of my family, we stand up for one another, we stand behind one another, and you always know that your fire family is there for you. We train together, we work hard together, and we laugh together...best job ever. I enjoy the fire service because it has taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to. Every day can bring a new challenge, and with that, a new skill learned. Working for the public and helping them when they need you is a very gratifying feeling."

**Fire Captain William Hill**  
**Return to Work Section**

"I think the most important qualities of Los Angeles County Fire Fighters are a deep sense of community, and exhibiting a willingness to accept and

welcome diversity. We provide a service; we work for and serve the people of Los Angeles County. The people are served best when our Fire Fighters are committed to their community, putting the community's needs first, and responding to those needs promptly and considerately.

In preparing to become a Los Angeles County Fire Fighter, a person should be in outstanding physical shape. As a Fire Fighter, you will have to endure many brutal workouts, not in the station or in the gym, but out in the field. You may find yourself physically and mentally exhausted on a roof top, cutting a ventilation hole, and you might find yourself so physically tired that you want to quit, but you cannot, because you are working to drag out a member of someone's family or a member of your own family (a fellow crew member). And you might find yourself undertaking all of these things in one day, so come to work in shape and ready to perform.

You must prepare yourself mentally and emotionally, by being committed to serve all people. You must be ready to be part of a team, you must be ready to train, and you must have an exemplary attitude.

Fire Fighters must be enthusiastic about working as a team member and embrace the team concept. Recognize the importance of staying together (keeping company unity) and the importance of looking out for a team member when on a roof, in a high-rise fire, and on a hillside during a brush fire. Our Department needs team-oriented people who are caring and concerned for other team members, as well as the public, by looking out for everyone's safety.

Working as a Los Angeles County Fire Fighter, I have enjoyed being able to support and appreciate my family, enjoyed the camaraderie and support of my fellow Fire Fighters, and have enjoyed helping the people of Los Angeles, having felt their appreciation.

What I like about the fire service, is in one word, camaraderie. The fire service is a community, and it is as important as the community we serve. As Fire Fighters we respond to the public's needs and we learn how to also respond to our fellow Fire Fighter community's needs. We offer as much commitment and caring to each other as we do to the community."

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## **2. Purpose of the Study Guide**

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This Study Guide is intended to assist you in preparing for the Los Angeles County Fire Fighter Trainee examination process. You should read the entire Guide to assist you in understanding what to expect during the process. No prior knowledge of technical firefighting information is necessary to take any portion of the test.

There are several steps in the examination process for which applicants must be prepared. Each of these steps will be outlined in more detail in the pages that follow.

- Application
- Written Test
- Structured Interview

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## **3. Application**

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All applicants must submit a complete application as stated in the posted job bulletin. Your application will be considered if you meet the minimum requirements as stated in the job bulletin.

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## **4. Written Tests**

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Upon acceptance of your application, you will be invited to take a written exam. The written exam consists of multiple portions and may be administered over the course of two testing days<sup>1</sup>. It will occur in proctored test sessions supervised by County personnel.

### **Work Orientation: Description and Example Questions**

This portion of the written assessment evaluates aspects of your approach to work-related situations and behaviors. Work Orientation includes attributes such as conscientiousness, managing work pressure, getting along with others, and trustworthiness.

During this assessment, select the answer that best describes you. Do not try to figure out which answer might be most desirable or expected. Unlike other portions of the written test, there is no “right” answer – this is an assessment of your attitudes toward work. It is in your best interest to select the answer that most accurately reflects your views, to ensure that a career as a Fire Fighter is likely to be a good fit both for you and for the department.

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<sup>1</sup> The invitation letter will provide additional details on when and where candidates are to appear for the written exam. The information appearing in the invitation letter and the job bulletin will have final authority.

Example Aspects of Work Orientation	Related Fire Fighter Duties
• Managing Work Pressure	• Maintains composure in difficult situations at the fire scene or rescue situation
• Conscientiousness	• Stays on task and completes work, even when it is difficult or repetitive
• Getting Along with Others	• Gets to know and serves people in the community
• Trustworthiness	• Protects the property and safety of others

### **Examples**

#### **Example 1:**

I remain calm in tense situations.

- A. Strongly Disagree
- B. Disagree
- C. In Between
- D. Agree
- E. Strongly Agree

#### **Example 2:**

I prefer work that is routine.

- A. Strongly Disagree
- B. Disagree
- C. In Between
- D. Agree
- E. Strongly Agree

#### **Example 3:**

Everyone has times when it is difficult to get motivated for work. How often have you thought of simply not going to work?

- A. Never
- B. Once every few months
- C. Once a month
- D. Almost once a week
- E. Once a week or more

**Example 4:**

A co-worker, with whom you've worked for several years and become close friends, has a fight with a supervisor over the best way to do a job. You happen to agree with the co-worker. The supervisor responds by ordering the co-worker to do as told or find another job. The co-worker obeys, but intentionally works at a slow pace.

How likely would you be to defend the co-worker's actions?

- A. Very Unlikely
- B. Unlikely
- C. In Between
- D. Likely
- E. Very Likely

**Abilities and Skills: Description, Example, & Practice Questions**

This portion of the written test measures abilities and skills necessary to learn the job of a Fire Fighter. The following are brief descriptions and example/practice items of each section.

You will be presented with questions that have two or more answer choices, and you will need to choose the best answer for each question. If you are not sure of the answer, try to eliminate one or more choices as incorrect. Then provide your best answer.

This portion of the written test has three parts: Mechanical Comprehension, Report Interpretation, and Reading Comprehension. Sample test questions are provided for each part of this test. These questions are similar to those included in the actual test. Read the instructions, look at the examples, and answer the practice questions. Once you have completed all three sections, you may check your answers by referring to the answer key on pages 22 through 24.

**1. Mechanical Comprehension**

Fire Fighters need mechanical ability to perform many job behaviors, such as operating pumps, raising and securing ladders, and making hose connections. In this part you will be presented with drawings that illustrate mechanical principles that are relevant to the job of Fire Fighter. The Mechanical Comprehension questions address mechanical principles such as Resolution of Forces, Shape and Volume, Center of Gravity, Hydraulics, and the operation of Gears, Pulley Systems, Planes and Slopes, Levers, and Structures.

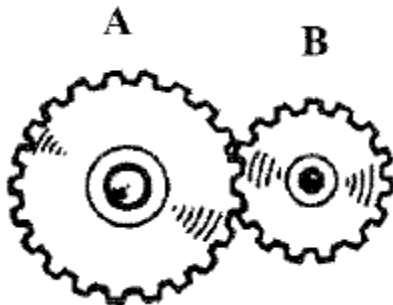


Aspects of Mechanical Comprehension	Related Fire Fighter Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of gear systems</li> <li>• Understanding of force and leverage principles</li> <li>• Use of hydraulics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating equipment on the fire engine or other fire fighting apparatus</li> <li>• Making forcible entries into buildings and vehicles</li> <li>• Operating hoses and directing the water stream to put out a fire</li> </ul>

In each of the following questions, three possible answers are suggested. In the actual test, you will record your answers on your answer sheet by filling in the circle under the alternative (A, B, or C) which you feel is the **best** response. In this study guide, write the letter which you feel is the **best** response next to the question number. Answer every question to the best of your ability.

**Example**

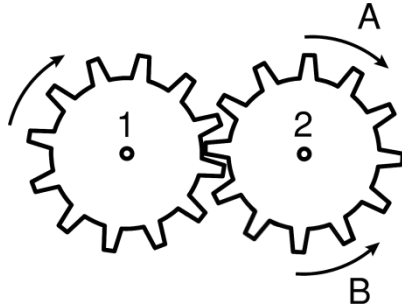
Which cog turns more slowly?  
If equal, mark C.



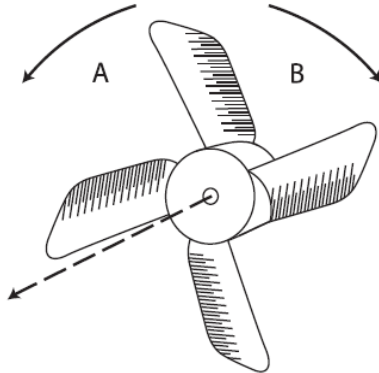
For this example, the correct answer is “A” because the larger the diameter of the cog, the longer it will take to complete a revolution. Therefore, cog A will turn more slowly.

### Practice Questions

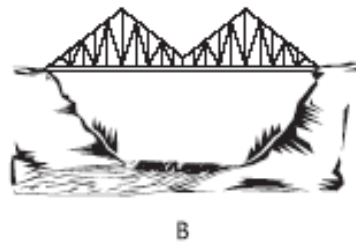
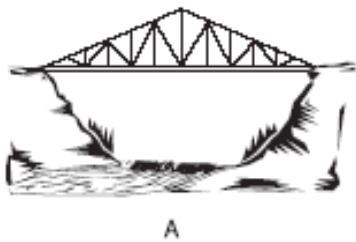
\_\_\_\_\_ 1. If force is applied to Gear 1 in the direction shown, which way will Gear 2 rotate? If neither, mark C.



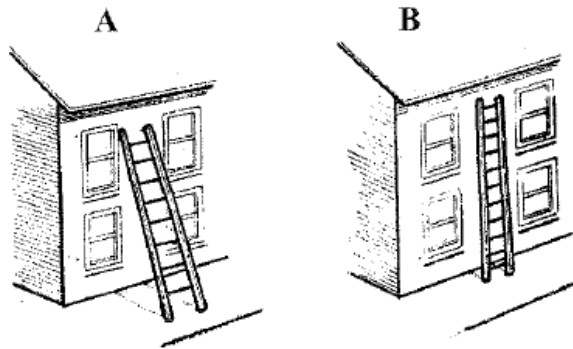
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which way must the fan turn to push air in the direction of the dashed-line arrow? If neither, mark C.



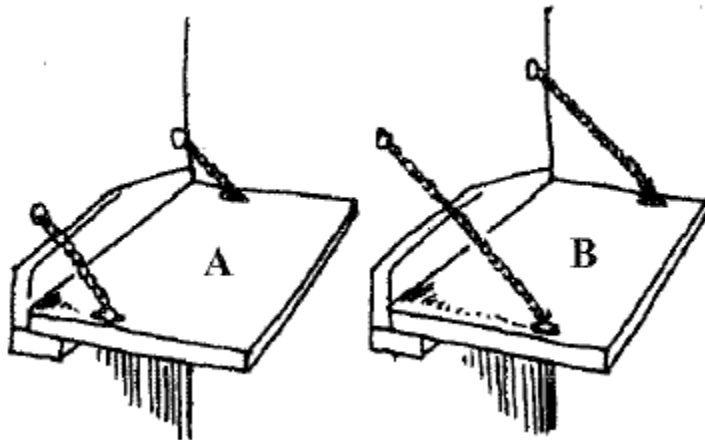
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which bridge will hold more weight? If equal, mark C.



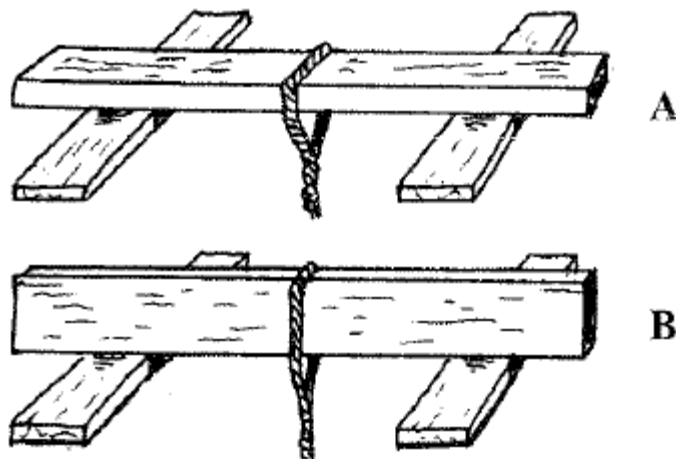
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which ladder is most likely to fall away from the building? If equal, mark C.



\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which shelf is stronger? If equal, mark C.



\_\_\_\_\_ 6. In which picture can you safely put a heavier weight on the rope? If equal, mark C.



## 2. Report Interpretation

Fire Fighters must be able to read and interpret charts and tables when performing a number of important tasks such as adjusting settings on equipment, making emergency medical decisions, and understanding training and operations manuals. The questions in this part measure the ability to read charts and reports concerning fire department operations and to correctly interpret the information.

Aspect of Report Interpretation	Related Fire Fighter Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading and understanding charts and data</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading and interpreting numeric information and charts from training manuals</li><li>• Interpreting numerical tables to perform clerical activities in order to comply with legal requirements</li></ul>

For each of the following questions, refer to the report and then decide which of the five suggested alternatives best answers the question. In the actual test, you will record your answers on your answer sheet by filling in the circle under the alternative (A, B, C, D, or E) which you feel is the **best** response. In this study guide, write the letter which you feel is the **best** response next to the question number. If you want to write out your calculations, do so in this study guide. Answer every question to the best of your ability.

Fire Department Report					
Company	Number of Trucks	Total Number of Calls Received	Total Number of Calls Dispatched	Number of Fire Calls Worked	Number of False Alarms
A	3	101	90	60	12
B	2	99	85	58	7
C	5	412	274	198	22
D	4	110	72	56	13
E	7	623	428	212	109
F	6	519	275	168	33
G	4	228	102	69	18

### **Example**

Which company worked the least number of fire calls?

- A. Company A
- B. Company B
- C. Company D
- D. Company F
- E. Company G

For this example, the correct answer is “C” because Company D worked only 56 fire calls while all of the other companies worked more than 56 fire calls.

### **Practice Questions**

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which company worked the greatest number of fires per truck?

- A. Company A
- B. Company B
- C. Company C
- D. Company E
- E. Company F

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Which company dispatched the highest percentage of calls received?

- A. Company A
- B. Company B
- C. Company C
- D. Company D
- E. Company E

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. How many companies responded to more than 20 false alarms?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What is the average number of trucks for companies that dispatched more than 100 calls?

- A. 4.4
- B. 4.8
- C. 5.5
- D. 6.0
- E. 7.0

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. How many companies with more than the average number of trucks also had fewer than 30 false alarms?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. How many companies had more than 10% of their calls received turn out to be false alarms?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3
- E. 4

### 3. Reading Comprehension

Fire Fighters must be able to read and understand written materials including instructions, directions, procedures, warnings, manuals, bulletins, and training materials. In this part you will read short passages of text and answer questions that assess your understanding of the contents.

The Reading Comprehension passages in this test are comparable in difficulty to actual training materials that entry-level Fire Fighters are required to read as part of their training.

Aspect of Reading Comprehension	Related Fire Fighter Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reading and understanding information from written passages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reading and understanding Fire Department procedure manuals and policy information</li><li>Reading and following procedures for the use and maintenance of Fire Fighter equipment</li><li>Following written directions as instructed by supervisors</li></ul>

In each of the following questions, four possible answers are suggested. Read the question and decide which one is the best answer. In the actual test, you will record your answers on your answer sheet by filling in the circle under the alternative (A, B, C, or D) you feel is the **best** response. In this study guide, write the letter which you feel is the **best** response next to the question number. Answer every question to the best of your ability.

### **Example**

Low pressure hydrants can be classified as follows: "double" hydrants, which can supply two engines; "single" hydrants, which can supply only one engine; and "suction" hydrants, which are supplied from a static source.

According to this paragraph

- A. A "single" hydrant is a high pressure hydrant.
- B. A "suction" hydrant can supply two engines.
- C. A "single" hydrant can supply only one engine.
- D. A "double" hydrant is supplied from a static source.

For this example, the correct answer is "C" because the paragraph states that a "single" hydrant can supply only one engine. The remaining three alternatives are either false or not necessarily true from the information given in the paragraph.

### **Practice Questions**

\_\_\_\_\_ **13.** Valves are used to control the supply of water at specific points in the supply system. This is helpful if pipes need to be repaired. It allows repairs to be made at a specific point in the network of pipes, without having to shut off the supply of water to a large area. There are two different kinds of valves used in water supply systems. An indicating valve is a valve that visibly shows when the water is turned on or off. A non-indicating valve cannot be seen visually. These valves are normally buried in the ground.

According to this paragraph, what is the function of valves in water supply systems?

- A. To regulate the water flow.
- B. To regulate the water temperature.
- C. To enhance the circulation of water through pipes.
- D. To carry water from the hydrant to the hose.

\_\_\_\_\_ **14.** When rescuing trapped persons from upper floors, it is imperative that the truck be placed in the most stable position possible. This type of rescue problem may require considerable maneuvering and extra long reaches at low angles of inclination.

According to this paragraph, rescues from upper floors require

- A. as long a ladder as possible.
- B. as low an angle of inclination as possible.
- C. as little maneuvering as possible.
- D. as stable a truck position as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ **15.** Sooner or later the problem arises of safely and quickly getting Fire Fighters to the roof to ventilate. Probably the quickest way to get to the roof is by aerial ladder, assuming that the ladder is in position. Another method where the buildings are of equal height is to go up the inside stairway of the adjoining building to get to the roof. This is advantageous because the aerial ladder could then be used for rescue purposes or for advancing hose lines, and using the adjoining building gives the Fire Fighter a safe route to the roof and also a good line of retreat from it.

According to this paragraph, an advantage of using the adjoining building to get to the roof of the burning building is that it

- A. is faster than using an aerial ladder.
- B. provides a safe route to the roof for the Fire Fighter.
- C. provides a route for rescue operations as well.
- D. frees other Fire Fighters to advance hose lines.

\_\_\_\_\_ **16.** Stopping the water flow from fused sprinkler heads immediately after determining that a fire is under control is a goal of the fire department, but this does not imply that sprinkler control valves should be indiscriminately closed. The officer in charge should first determine that all sprinkler valves are open and then supply lines to the fire department sprinkler connections. The fire should then be located and necessary steps should be taken to ensure that it is under control. Only then should sprinklers be shut off.

According to this paragraph, building sprinklers can be shut off only when you have

- A. located the fire and started firefighting operations.
- B. defused the sprinkler heads.
- C. ensured that the fire is under control.
- D. ensured that all control valves have been closed.



**17.** A common fire hazard is a condition which is found in almost all occupancies and which encourages a fire to start. In contrast, special hazards are those which usually are characteristic of a given industry. The term "common" could be misleading to some individuals, but it refers to the probable frequency of the hazard and not to the severity of the hazard.

According to this paragraph, a common fire hazard is one which

- A. is found in the home rather than in industrial or business settings.
- B. is frequently encountered in all types of buildings.
- C. has less serious consequences than other types of fire hazards.
- D. is present due to the conditions encountered in a particular type of business.

       **18.** Respiratory protective equipment can be of great help to Fire Fighters who are handling hose streams. It is the responsibility of the company officer to conduct drills and training sessions to remove any reluctance on the part of the Fire Fighters to use it. It is true that such equipment has limitations; however, an alert officer should know the range of capabilities of such equipment and use it accordingly.

According to this paragraph, it is the responsibility of the company officer to

- A. overcome the Fire Fighters' reluctance to depend on respiratory protective equipment.
- B. conduct drills and training sessions regarding the capabilities and uses of respiratory protective equipment.
- C. explain the extremely limited capabilities of respiratory protective equipment during training sessions.
- D. conduct drills and training sessions to curtail the improper use of hose streams.

## **Language Skills: Description, Example, & Practice Questions**

Fire Fighters are required to interact with co-workers, superiors, and public service agencies, and assist fire and law enforcement investigators, often through writing. Performing office duties, writing reports and correspondence, and communicating, reporting, and documenting medical services provided is also required on the job. This portion of the written test measures the ability to recognize correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and usage.

Look at the example problem below. Part of the sentence is underlined. The underlined section may contain errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, or usage. Following the sentence are three suggested changes to replace the underlined section. If the underlined section contains no error, select the option "No Change". In the actual test, you will record your answers on your answer sheet by filling in the circle under the alternative (A, B, C, or D) you feel is the **best** response. In this study guide, write the letter which you feel is the **best** response next to the question number. Answer every question to the best of your ability. When finished, check your answers using the answer key at the back of this study guide.

### **Example**

The team meeting will be held on Tuesday.

- A. Teusday.
- B. Tuesday.
- C. Tuesdey.
- D. No change.

For this example, the correct answer is "B" which displays the correct spelling of the underlined word.

### **Practice Questions**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **19.** There is a need to be insistent when making policy decisions.
- A. insistant
  - B. constant
  - C. consistent
  - D. No change.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **20.** Mrs. Jones is the most efficient worker.
- A. efficientest
  - B. mostly efficient
  - C. efficiently
  - D. No change.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **21.** Both of the vehicle's will need an oil change every three months.
- A. vehicles will
  - B. vehicle'll
  - C. vehicle will
  - D. No change.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **22.** Mrs. Lewis would have left earlier but she was distracted by a phone call from her coworker.
- A. would have left earlier but she was distracted,
  - B. would have left earlier, but she was distracted
  - C. would have left earlier; but she was distracted
  - D. No change.

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## 6. Structured Interview

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The structured interview is designed to evaluate skills, abilities, and aspects of work orientation that are important for Fire Fighter success. Likewise, completion of the structured interview does *not* require prior technical knowledge of firefighting information or fire department policies and procedures. The structured interview occurs after the written test portions of the examination process. County personnel will conduct the structured interview. Only those candidates who successfully pass the written test(s) will be invited to participate in the structured interview to be conducted by County personnel.

The structured interview may include two types of questions – situational questions and behavioral questions. Both situational and behavioral questions are used to evaluate specific qualities that are important for success as a Fire Fighter, such as Adaptability and Self-Reliance, Professional Demeanor and Communication, Interpersonal Effectiveness, Multi-tasking, and Organizational Skills.

Situational questions can be thought of as “what would you do” questions. Specifically, the interviewer first describes a realistic situation that Fire Fighter trainees could encounter. The interviewer then asks for a response that describes how you would handle that situation. Situations will vary in terms of the kinds of job- and/or school-related qualities required to handle them effectively. Again,

responding to the situations will not require prior firefighting knowledge or experience.

Behavioral questions can be thought of as “what did you do” questions. Specifically, the interviewer will ask you to describe behaviors you demonstrated in the past. The questions will target specific examples, and will focus on several themes. Using behavioral questions, the interviewer may ask about the way you responded when adjusting to changes at work or school, how you interacted with people outside your company or organization, the approach you took to working with others, or other aspects of your prior experience whether at work or at school. The responses you describe will enable interviewers to assess qualities important for Fire Fighter success, such as the ones mentioned previously.

#### *Example Situational Interview Question*

**You are a new Fire Fighter trainee at Los Angeles County. The Captain asks you to prepare a drill on a piece of equipment for the rest of the crew. The drill (a hands-on training session that shows how to perform a task) is supposed to take place in three weeks. You are not familiar with the piece of equipment. What would you do in this situation?**

#### *Example Behavioral Interview Question*

**No one likes to have to make adjustments to personal plans because something related to work or school has come up, but sometimes it is necessary.**

- Tell me about a time when you needed to change plans and miss something you were really excited about in order to address a work- or school-related issue.
- What was the issue, and how did it impact your personal plans? How did you respond?

#### **Preparation**

There are no formal preparation resources available for the structured interview portion of the examination process. However, you may benefit from reflecting on your prior work, military, or school experiences and organizing your thoughts about them in advance of the interview.

What specific experiences can you describe that illustrate different aspect of your work style (e.g. organizational skills)?

What experiences can you share that provide insight into the way you interact with coworkers and people outside your organization or school (e.g. professional demeanor and communication)?

Having such specific, detailed examples will enable you to draw from them in responding to the situational and behavioral interview questions.

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## 7. Test Tips

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This section lists a variety of things you may wish to do before taking the written test.

### **Preparation and Study**

To help with your test preparation, consider doing some or all of the following:

1. *Go to the County of Los Angeles test preparation website:*
  - Go to [hr.lacounty.gov](http://hr.lacounty.gov)
  - Then click on the **Job Search** tab
  - Then click on **Employment Test Preparation System**
2. *Review the Fire Department website for more information about being a Fire Fighter and the examination process.*
  - Go to <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/>
  - Then click on **Our Services** link
  - Then click on **Be A Fire Fighter**
3. *Practice Taking Tests*
  - Taking tests can be challenging, but the experience can provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate how prepared you are for the job. Become comfortable with the test-taking situation by finding practice tests online or in the library. The tests should involve reading information and answering multiple-choice questions. Time yourself and practice budgeting your time so that you can effectively manage your testing time.

### **Quick Test-Taking Tips**

- As best as you can, clear your schedule well before the test date. During the exam session, you will be given instruction on how to complete your answer sheets.
- Get plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Read the test instructions carefully and follow them.
- Before choosing an answer, read all of the answer choices.
- Be sure the answer you are selecting corresponds to the response option you are choosing.

## 8. Sample Test Answer Sheet

You will use answer sheets for the written exam to record your answers. During the exam session, you will be given instructions on how to complete your answer sheets.

When taking the test, be sure to check that you have marked your answer in the space on the answer sheet that corresponds to the test question. Because the answer sheet will be read by computer, it is important that you mark your answers clearly and completely erase any unintended or stray marks.

A sample answer sheet is shown below.

Front Page

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIDE ONE

**EXAMPLE**  
WRONG  
1. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
WRONG  
2. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
WRONG  
3. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
RIGHT  
4. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

**IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS FOR MARKING ANSWERS**  
Use #2 pencil only.  
Make heavy black marks that fill the circle completely.  
Erase clearly any answer you wish to change.  
Make no stray marks on this answer sheet.

REFER TO THESE EXAMPLES BEFORE STARTING PRACTICE EXERCISES

**PRACTICE**  
A B C D E  
1. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
2. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
3. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
4. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

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188. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	198. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	208. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	218. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	228. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	238. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
189. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	199. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	209. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	219. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	229. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	239. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
190. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	200. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	210. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	220. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	230. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D	240. <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D

## **9. Written Test Practice Questions Answer Key**

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### **Abilities & Skills**

#### **1. Mechanical Comprehension**

1. The correct answer is B. As gear 1 turns clockwise, it applies downward force to gear 2, causing it to turn counter-clockwise.
2. The correct answer is B. To push air in the direction of the dashed-line arrow, the fan blades must rotate clockwise. If the blades were to rotate counter-clockwise, they would push air in the opposite direction of the dashed-line arrow.
3. The correct answer is A. Bridge B has two separate truss structures (the triangular configurations of support beams), but no central support between them. Bridge B would be very weak at its center.
4. The correct answer is B. The ladder whose base is farther out from the building is more stable and less likely to tip.
5. The correct answer is B. Attaching the chain farther out on the shelf causes more of the shelf's weight to be supported by the chain.
6. The correct answer is B. A board set on its edge vertically is stronger than a board lying horizontally because it is distributing weight through a thicker and greater area and will therefore support more weight.

#### **2. Report Interpretation**

7. The correct answer is C. Dividing the number of fire calls worked by the number of trucks for each company yields the highest number for Company C.
8. The correct answer is A. Company A dispatched 90 of the 101 calls received; this percentage is higher than for the alternative companies.
9. The correct answer is C. There are three companies that worked more than twenty false alarms. These include Companies C, E, and F.
10. The correct answer is C. There are four companies that dispatched more than 100 calls. Those include Companies C, E, F, and G. By adding up the number of trucks for those four companies and dividing by four, the average number of trucks is 5.5.
11. The correct answer is B. The average number of trucks is found by adding up the total number of trucks for each company and dividing by seven (because there are seven companies). The average number of trucks works out to be 4.4. For the three companies that had more than the average number of trucks (Companies C, E, and F),



Company C is the only one that had fewer than 30 false alarms.

12. The correct answer is D. For Companies A, D, and E, the number of false alarms is more than 10% of the total number of calls received. For example, for Company A, 10% of 101 calls received is 10. Company A had 12 false alarms.

### **3. Reading Comprehension**

13. The correct answer is A. The passage states that valves can shut off and control (regulate) the supply of water at specific points in the supply system.
14. The correct answer is D. The first sentence of the paragraph states that it is imperative that the truck be placed in the most stable position possible. There is no mention of a ladder, it is not clear that the lowest angle of inclination possible is needed, and considerable maneuvering, not little maneuvering, may be required.
15. The correct answer is B. Using the adjoining building to get to the roof of the burning building provides a safe route to the roof for the Fire Fighter. It is not necessarily faster than using an aerial ladder, and the paragraph does not state that it provides a route for rescue operations. The paragraph states that the aerial ladder, if not being used to get Fire Fighters to the roof, could then be available for rescue purposes, or for advancing hose lines.
16. The correct answer is C. The paragraph states that once the fire is located and necessary steps have been taken to ensure that it is under control, only then should sprinklers be shut off. Therefore, once it is ensured that the fire is under control, building sprinklers can be shut off.
17. The correct answer is B. The paragraph states that a common fire hazard is a condition which is found in almost all occupancies. Therefore the correct answer is that a common fire hazard is one which is frequently encountered in all types of buildings. It is not necessarily found in the home more frequently than in other settings, and it is not necessarily true that a common fire hazard has less serious consequences than other types of fire hazards. Alternative D refers to special hazards, which are present due to the conditions encountered in a particular type of business or industry.
18. The correct answer is B. The paragraph states that it is the responsibility of the company officer to conduct drills and training sessions to remove any reluctance on the part of the Fire Fighters to use protective equipment. The paragraph mentions using, but not depending, on

protective equipment. Alternatives C and D are inconsistent with the information given in the paragraph.

**Language Skills**

- 19. The correct answer is C.
- 20. The correct answer is D.
- 21. The correct answer is A.
- 22. The correct answer is B.

**THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES WISHES YOU  
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